

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-17, 19-23 and 25-29 are pending in the application, claims 26-29 being new, and claims 9, 18 and 24 being canceled herein.

ALLOWABLE claims 3, 9, 18 and 24

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 3, 9, 18 and 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The subject matter of ALLOWABLE claims 9, 18 and 24 is amended into their respective independent claims 1, 14 and 20, respectively, with claims 9, 18 and 24 being subsequently canceled. New claim 29 corresponds to the subject matter of allowable claim 3.

Objection to Drawings

The drawings were objected to for having poor line quality. Formal drawings will be filed shortly.

Informalities in Claims 2 and 21-23

Claims 2 and 21-23 were objected to for noted informalities. The Applicants thank the Examiner for the suggested changes to the claims, which are implemented herein as the Examiner suggested. It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Indefiniteness in Claim 20

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claim 20 has been carefully reviewed, and is amended appropriately herein to be more definite. It is respectfully submitted that claim 20 is now in full conformance with 35 USC 112.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10, 12, 13-17, 19-23 and 25 over Prodanov

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10, 12, 13-17, 19-23 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,693,469 ("Prodanov"); and claims 5 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Prodanov.

The subject matter of ALLOWABLE claims 9, 18 and 24 is amended herein into independent claims 1, 14 and 20, respectively. Thus, it is believed that the Examiner would agree that all pending claims are now allowable.

For at least all these reasons, claims 1-8, 10-17, 19-23 and 25 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

New Claims 26-28

New independent claim 26 (and its dependent claims 27 and 28) correspond to the subject matter of original claim 1, together with the unique architecture of a bias generator. Such a bias generator is disclosed in the specification, e.g., in Fig. 4.

The cited prior art fails to disclose, teach or suggest such a bias generator, together with a low voltage buffer as recited by claims 26-28.

New Claim 29

New independent claim 29 corresponds to the subject matter of allowable claim 3 as originally filed, re-written in independent form, with only the formality issue of the subject matter of claim 2 corrected. Claim 29 (formerly claim 3) is NOT amended in view of prior art.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William H. Bollman", written over a horizontal line.

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